

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

IO-12 EB-11 OMB-01 RSR-01 /127 W
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R 101135 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1065

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS LONDON 05448

CAPETOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJECT: REAFFIRMATION OF BRITISH RHODESIAN POLICY

1. DURING AN EXCHANGE IN PARLIAMENT ON RHODESIA ON MAY 8, PRIME MINISTER HEATH REAFFIRMED BRITISH- RHODESIAN POLICY. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD SEEK TO MEET IAN SMITH TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS ON ALL OUTSTANDING DIFFICULTIES, HEATH REPLIED: " WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO MR. SMITH THAT WHAT IS NOW REQUIRED IS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE RACES IN RHODESIA ON THE BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT. WE ARE READY AT ANY TIME TO RESPOND TO SUCH AN AGREEMENT."

2. THIS EXCHANGE WAS FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS ON SANCTIONS; THE PRIME MINISTER REAFFIRMED THE BRITISH INTENTION TO CONTINUE THEIR PRESENT SANCTIONS POLICY AND SAID THAT THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT THE EXISTENCE OF SANCTIONS HAD BEEN A FACTOR IN BRINGING THE SMITH REGIME TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

3. OPPOSITION LEADER HAROLD WILSON THEN ASKED THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: " IS IT STILL THE FACT, AS THE FOREIGN SECRETARY
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TOLD US EARLIER IN THE YEAR, THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT OF LAST YEAR, WHICH WAS TURNED DOWN BY THE AFRICANS AND THE PEARCE COMMISSION, STILL LIES ON THE TABLE? SHOULD IT NOT BE MADE CLEAR THAT IT DOES NOT STILL LIE ON THE TABLE AND REQUIRES SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT AS WELL AS AFRICAN APPROVAL?"

4. HEATH REPLIED: " I AM WELL AWARE OF THE FIRST POINT . . . ON THE LAST POINT, I DO NOT THINK ONE NEEDS TO SPLIT HAIRS. SURELY THE POSITION IS THAT ONE WANTS MR. SMITH AND THE AFRICANS TO DISCUSS TOGETHER A SETTLEMENT, AND THE BASIS FOR THIS CAN BE THE AGREEMENT WHICH WAS WORKED OUT, WITH AMENDMENTS MADE BY EITHER SIDE IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

I SEE NO POINT IN REMOVING THIS ENTIRELY FROM THE TABLE AND SAYING THAT THEY HAVE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN EITHER ON THE LAST RHODESIAN CONSTITUTION OR THE 1961 CONSTITUTION." ANNENBERG

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